

E - 112,628  
S - 112,151

FEB 9 1977

## *Second try better*

# Turner qualified

In selecting Adm. Stansfield Turner to head the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), President Carter proved he had learned a lesson from his first defeat at the hands of Congress.

He has, also, found a man who has a great potential to fill an exacting assignment — restore the credibility of the CIA while maintaining its efficiency.

In strong contrast to the many questions that were raised by Carter's attempt to place Theodore C. Sorensen at the head of the CIA, Turner is expected to win approval with a minimum of dissent from the Senate.

The only immediate question was raised by Sen. Gary Hart, D-Colo., a member of the armed services panel who expressed doubts about a military man "heading up an agency designed to be independent of the military."

Even Hart indicated that he did not think that was sufficient reason to vote against confirmation and expressed

the opinion that the admiral had "extremely good credentials."

If Hart has such reservations, it is clear that past Senates have not shared them. The first director of the CIA was Rear Adm. Sidney Souers in 1946 and his successor, serving from 1947 to 1950, was Rear Adm. Roscoe Hillenkoetter. Two other directors have been Gen. Walter Bedell Smith and Vice Adm. William Raborn Jr.

It is obvious that Turner has more on his side than the fact he was a classmate of President Carter at Annapolis and has advised him in the past on naval matters. His scholastic record is excellent and he was a Rhodes scholar.

His rise in the ranks has been exceptionally fast, going from ensign in 1946 to full admiral in 1975. On the way he earned a reputation as an innovator, having changed the curricula at the Naval War College while serving as president and making news by inviting such unorthodox speakers as David Halberstam, prominent Vietnam war critic, to give the other side of controversial issues.

His career should stand him in good stead in directing the policies of the CIA. It includes service as the director of the systems analysis division for naval operations, commander of the U.S. Second Fleet in Vietnam waters during the war, commander of a carrier task group in the Mediterranean during the cold war in 1970 and 1971 and most recently as NATO commander in the South.

Turner's expressed concern over the growing Soviet naval threat should reassure some who feared that Sorensen would not take a sufficiently serious view of Soviet threats. However, despite his concerns over keeping open the sea lanes for America's allies, he is known to have a generally optimistic

